

Jesus heals the poor lunatic. The mountain-top of vision and the valley of service, these are close together in the ideal life. What is the place of each? What is the relation of devotion to "the work of ministering" and of both to complete Christian life?

The Semitic mind was filled with what Prof. Robertson Smith calls "a peculiar longing after dreamy ease." The prophets were idealists who saw visions of the far future when the desert should blossom as a rose and righteousness cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. This sublime hope in the hearts of the leaders inspired also the masses of the people and the nation was lifted by it ever higher above the level of surrounding nations who had no such prophets with visions of the true God, but only sorcerers and idols. However the prophets saw only the holiness and power of God and this with dim tho growing clearness, it remained for Jesus to reveal him as a loving Father. The vision possible for all since his day therefore is not one of a righteous and stern judge with vigilant eye upon the sinner, but of a loving Father seeking the lost prodigals to save them. Not judgment but redemption is the back-ground of our vision; not the stern eye but the cross bearing aloft the heart of infinite compassion, now thrown open to the world, is the light which glorifies the vision and lights the pathway of life.

But life is not rapture and Christianity is not the building of a temple or three temples on the Mount of Transfiguration. It is following him who came from the mount to heal the lad sore vexed with the demon. Songs and prayers and ordinances have their place, but are simply means unto an end and that end "the perfecting of the saints" whose mark of perfection is love (Col. 3:14) manifested in "visiting the fatherless and the widows in their affliction and in keeping unspotted from the world. (James 1:27.)

As the man who named one prong of his scissors faith and the other works and made the two act together beautifully, so we by observing faithfully the means of grace, the church, prayer, the word, etc., will find ourselves inspired to deeds of humble, loving service in the name of a disciple.

Either vision or service alone will fail. Vision will become hypocrisy and service will become formality, but the two together will mark the life which springs ever anew from him whose life is hid with Christ in God.

SCRIPTURE HELP

Some Visions we Should See

1. The Savior from sin, John 3:15; Isa. 45:22.
2. Our perfecter and keeper, Heb. 12:1-3.
3. The field of duty, John 4:35, 36.
4. True consecration, Mark 12:42-44.
5. True service, Luke 10:36, 37.

How we May See

6. God the Father, Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; John 14:9.
7. Jesus our Savior, John 5:39; II Cor. 3:18; John 15:26.
8. The way of duty, James 1:23-25; John 6:68; 4:36.

What Vision Should Inspire

9. Courage, II Kings 6:15-17.
10. Humility, Isa. 6:5.
11. A seeking to be as the Master, Heb. 2:9; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 4:13-15.
12. Loving service as disciples, Matt. 25:34-40; 10:42; I John 3:17, 18; James 1:27.

FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. What does "vision and service" mean as used in the topic?
2. May we all have a vision? In what way?
3. How do we "see Jesus" and how may we make the vision fruitful in our own lives?
4. How may we "lift up our eyes" and see the needs of the mission field? And how may we turn the vision into service?
5. How may we have a vision of life's mission and how carry it out?
6. *Ought every one live so near to God as to have*

that strong conviction of duty which we call a "vision."

7. What can we learn from Isaiah's vision. Isa. 6.
8. How do our devotions, public and private, help us to be more eager to be of service?
9. In what ways may our lives be crippled by neglect of devotion?
10. In what ways may our lives be crippled by neglect of service?
11. What can we learn from Paul and his vision? Acts 22.
12. How may we make our society of more practical service?

C. F. YODER.

SERMON ECHOES

LOUIS S. BAUMAN

God makes no mistakes.

You can't afford to be selfish.

Bethlehem's manger was Liberty's cradle.

He who does most for others, does most for himself.

A man may be dead unto God, long before he is dead unto the world.

You can trust the man whose knees wear the carpet in the chamber of secret prayer.

The most terrible witness man will confront in the judgment day will be his own conscience.

Better find out who is responsible for the saloon before you go to settle with God.

Heaven's rewards will not be to him who does most, but to him who does what he can.

Some men crowd all the religion they have into their mouths, and can then eat hot mush without much difficulty.

Roann, Ind.

HOW CHRISTIANS GROW

(For the topic Sunday evening, May 6.)

Z. L. LIVENGOD

At the solicitation of our president I write this. Reader will you hear me for a very few minutes? Well, that is the way Christians are made. *They grow.* Christians grow in *grace, in knowledge, in faith.* Man "*groweth* unto an holy temple in the Lord." And we are taught by the Apostle Peter to feed upon the "sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby." And Paul says we "*grow* up into Him in all things." Christians put on Jesus as the tree puts on wood, and as the ox puts on flesh, and the arm puts on muscle.

Several things are necessary for any one to *grow as a Christian.*

First, one must be born again in order to grow as a man of God. The better the birth, the better may become the person. As this is true in regard to our physical development, so it is much more pertinent to spiritual, that "ye must be born again." It is of great importance that we start right. The greater the object to be accomplished the greater is the need of beginning right. The beginning of our Christian life is regeneration. The new birth.

If then we have this divine birth we will

be sure to be in possession of the next very essential requisite.

Appetite: The babe without an appetite is a failure, so is the church member who has no hunger and thirst for God's holy word. Young persons of the Endeavor societies, and church members, if you have no hunger for the word of God, get an appetite for it. "For blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled."

Food is another essential to growth. Just as sure as the man can not live bodily without food; so is it impossible for man to live and grow spiritually without spiritual food. The Christians food must be taken as the wise parent deals out material food to the child. Milk is for babes, for Christian babes as well. Paul said to the brethren at Corinth that he had to feed them upon milk, because they were not able to bear meat. I Cor. 3:2. The same truth and principle he laid down to the Hebrews, 5:12, 13. Milk for babes in Christ. Strong food for more advanced in the Christ life. By all means *eat*, you *must* eat if you would *grow*. If you do not *grow* send at once for a physician. You are sick, your condition is serious, you cannot stand still long, you will get the old fashioned "go backs." Some have them already. Send for the doctor, send for Jesus. He is sure cure for that fatal disease. Take his remedies and a cure will follow.

The Christian in order to grow must breathe, and pure air at that. There is only one way of making pure blood, and that is by breathing pure air. If you, my brother and sister, have been breathing the foul miasmas of society, in the gambling house, in the saloon, on the street-corner or the secret dens of vice; get out. Breathe God's free, pure and invigorating heavenly atmosphere. This will be a great help in your spiritual growth. If you are strong you can go into the miasma to rescue a fellow one. Do not remain long. If you do see that Jesus is close to you. For you will need him to keep off the baneful effects.

Cleanliness is still another help to the Christian's growth. Filth and dirt breed disease, and disease, decay and death. Christian be clean, clean in business. Tell the truth, do not defraud, keep your mouth and tongue clean. Wash it frequently with the divine lotion given by Jesus, the Great Physician.

Be clean in your homes. When people see you not, as well as when they are present. Be clean in your habits. Be clean in your politics, in municipal, state and national politics. Take the "Golden rule" and the "decatalogue" along, notwithstanding a wise and famous ex-senator.

Be clean in the sanctuary. Go there to worship God. This will be a strong and invigorating influence upon you and help you materially in your Christian growth.

Another thing we need to help us grow is, *work, exercise.* Some church member have the disease called "dry rot." They always work too hard, they are always afflicted more